

Leaves from My Journal

Rev. Dr. Ron Buck

Nearly half of the deaths of children under five years old are caused by poor nutrition. About 795 million people are chronically malnourished. While that number has been reduced over the past decade, it is still astronomically high and the percentage of the world's population living with food insecurity is appalling.

Feeding the hungry is biblical. A large crowd had followed Jesus to a deserted place and the day was waning. When he realized that they were hungry he fed them – in abundance. Beginning with only five loaves and two fish, Jesus met the needs of the people. All ate until they were filled and twelve baskets of leftovers were gathered. In the early church leaders noticed that some of the Hellenistic (Greek) widows were missing out on the daily distribution of food. The solution was to choose and set apart seven deacons to make sure that those women were no longer neglected. And when Jesus described the great judgment, those who were judged worthy of the kingdom asked what they had done to merit that. Jesus said “I was hungry and you fed me...” and then explained that whenever they had cared for the “least of these” it was as though they had taken care of him.

The list of biblical examples of the responsibility to feed the hungry goes on and on. Part of our mission as people of faith is to meet the physical needs of the most vulnerable people around us. That is

why mission opportunities like “Stop the Hunger” are so important for the church. The thousands of meals that we just packed will go to at-risk families in Belize, or Guatemala, or Lesotho – or dozens of other nations around the globe, including the United States. If we truly love others as Christ has challenged us to do – in essence, to love our neighbors as we love ourselves – then the needs of our neighbors will be as pressing as the needs of our own families. Filling those bags with life-saving meals was more than a practical response to a physical need: it was a spiritual response to Jesus’ need. For whatever we have done for the least of these, we have done for him.

Grace and Peace,



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The goal was 21,000 meals to be packaged in about 2 hours. Well over 100 volunteers showed up at Collierville Christian Church by 9:00 a.m. to do the packing but a smaller group had been working since around 7:30 to set up registration and tables and chairs for packing, weighing, sealing, and boxing those meals for an organization called Stop Hunger Now. There were CCC members of all ages, Kingsway CC members, alongside Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, friends and neighbors. But just before 9:00 the Stop Hunger Now representative realized that the meal bags had not been loaded onto the truck and were still at the warehouse in Jackson, Mississippi.

Alex, the SHN rep, offered the option of rescheduling or waiting approximately three hours while another employee drove up from Jackson with the bags. Since everything was set up and the rice, soy protein, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamin mix had already been opened and distributed to the packing stations, it was decided that we would reconvene at noon and pack the meals as originally planned – just later in the day.

While many volunteers could not return at noon, about 80 did and the meals were packaged in under two hours and loaded on the truck. After a quick clean-up and set-up for the Celebration Service was complete, the volunteers completed their work and the truck headed back to the warehouse in Jackson. Soon the meals will be on their way to provide nourishment and hope to some community in Africa, Central or South America, Southeast Asia, or here in the United States. For more information about Stop Hunger Now visit their website: www.stophungernow.org.





Fall Regional Activities

September 16-18:

Tennessee Disciples Women Fall Retreat at Bethany Hills

October 1-2:

CYF (Grades 9-12) Octoberfest at Bethany Hills

October 7-8:

Regional Assembly at Henry Horton State Park

November 4-6:

Chi Rho (Grades 6-8) Fall Retreat at Bethany Hills

November 19-20:

Installation of Regional Minister, Dr. Christal Williams



Collierville Christian Church hosted Family Promise from August 14 – 21. We had three families with a total of seven children ranging in age from five months to twelve years. On Tuesday and Thursday of that week a team from New Direction Christian Church in Collierville helped out by providing the evening meal. Their team was lead by Pastor Shamicheal Hallman, standing next to Dr. Ron Buck in the photo. Thanks to New Direction for their participation.



WHIRL
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
PARTY



To the Beloved Members of Collierville Christian Church

The time has come for me to write a farewell note as your Youth Director. My departure is for one simple reason, it's time. My training business has exploded, my interest in physical healing has expanded and my world is shifting in new and exciting ways. During my time here I

have flourished in your love, generosity and praise; I have been overwhelmed by your appreciation, support and encouragement; and I have enjoyed your friendship, warmth and community. I will forever treasure the memories of every adventure, trip, small group and special event we have shared together these past four years. Thank you for being a cherished part of my story as well. This is not good bye, I will see you soon.

You were created to be creative in creation. Notice God!

Much love – Mary Beth

AMP 2016: Annual Ministry Planning Meeting

If you were not present for the Annual Ministry Planning event (AMP) on August 7, the photos below will offer you a glimpse of what you missed. Members gathered for lunch – delicious barbeque prepared by B. J. Stanford – and to spend time envisioning the activities and events at Collierville Christian in the coming year. Every major ministry area was represented and a large number of items were placed on the calendar for 2017. Thanks to the board for all their work and preparation and to the various ministry team members for their enthusiasm and effort. In 2017 AMP may be moved to September so that summer will be over and more members can participate.

